



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

November 2019

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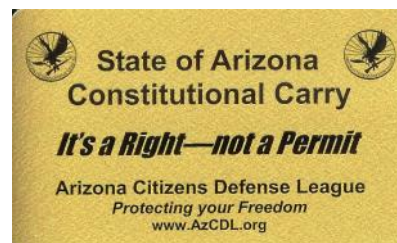
Arizona Rated Best State For Gun Owners—Again!

Thanks to AzCDL Arizona is rated as the #1 state for gun owners

For the SEVENTH consecutive year [Guns and Ammo magazine](#) has rated Arizona as the #1 state for gun owners.

States were measured by the following criteria:

- Right To Carry.
- Treatment of “Black Rifles” (ARs, AKs, etc.).
- Treatment of NFA firearms.
- Castle Doctrine.
- Miscellaneous issues such as preemption, laws and rules that fall outside of other rated areas, as well as the availability of places to shoot.



Arizona's consecutive seven year #1 rating is primarily because of what AzCDL has [accomplished](#). Prior to AzCDL's involvement, efforts to change the status quo in Arizona were unsuccessful.

As a result, Arizona's CCW system was onerous and discouraged applications. Permits were only good for 4 years and required training, testing and additional fingerprinting to renew. Court cases narrowed the interpretation of open carry to a point where the only way to safely openly carry your firearm and avoid arrest was by having a CCW permit. In self-defense situations, the burden of proof was on you to prove your innocence – after you admitted to the “crime.” Firearms preemption was Balkanized. Castle doctrine and “no duty to retreat” laws were weak.

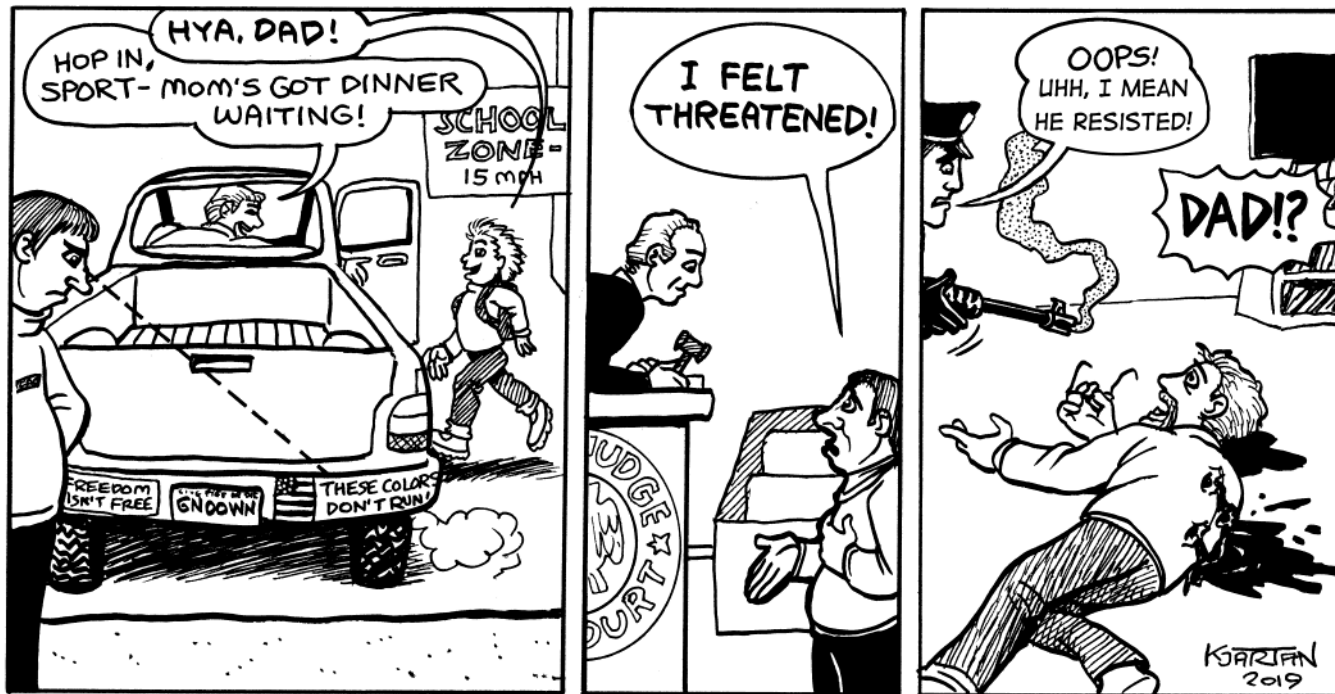
AzCDL was created in 2005 by activists who were not satisfied with the status quo. Just 5 years later, in 2010, we achieved Constitutional Carry. CCW permits are now optional and the process to obtain a permit is more realistic. Arizona permits are recognized by almost three-quarters of the states. Arizona is also one of the few states that recognize all permits from all states – again thanks to AzCDL.

Because of AzCDL's efforts, you are now “innocent until proven guilty” when defending yourself. Firearms preemption has been strengthened. We were even successful in getting the Arizona Constitution changed to protect law-abiding citizens from law suits when they defend themselves. Visit our [Accomplishments](#) and [Why AzCDL](#) web pages to learn more about what AzCDL has accomplished.

We are proud that AzCDL's efforts, with the support of our members, have again garnered this high rating for Arizona from such a prestigious publication. However, from our perspective, there is a lot more that needs to be done to make Arizona truly a free state when it comes to honoring your constitutionally protected right to bear arms. With your [continued support](#) we can achieve that goal.

Can we count on you?

The Danger of Red Flag laws



After recent mass killings the enemies of freedom are once again calling for disarming law-abiding citizens. Their current trojan horse of choice is “red flag” laws that use *civil* proceedings to forcibly confiscate your firearms based on dubious claims from disgruntled family members or school officials, with virtually no recourse or appeal.

- There is no notice to you until police show up at your door.
- You are assumed dangerous until you can prove otherwise. In *Maryland*, police killed a man while confiscating his guns using their red flag law.
- Confiscation is largely based on someone’s fears.
- Your accuser is kept secret from you, allowing them to harass you without consequence.
- You lose even if you win—You will spend thousands in legal fees and your employment and reputation may be jeopardized.

Over a dozen states have enacted some version of Red Flag laws. In Vermont, the firearms of an uncle of a student plotting a school rampage were confis-

cated, not because he was involved, but because the student mentioned that he knew his uncle owned guns. Florida enacted their Red Flag law in March of 2018. By July 2018 they had already confiscated over 400 firearms. They continue to do so on a routine basis.

Governor Ducey wants a Red Flag law enacted in Arizona

At the behest of *Republican* Governor Doug Ducey, a red flag bill was introduced in the 2018 Arizona Legislative session. Thanks largely to AzCDL’s intervention, the Governor’s original proposal failed to pass out of the Legislature. In 2019, Democrats filed their version of the Governor’s red flag proposal, but the legislation died early in the session.

In an interview with the Arizona Capitol Times earlier this year, Governor Ducey once again pushed his scheme for “emergency” confiscation of *your* firearms in the 2020 legislative session.

It gets worse. Arizona’s Speaker of the House, *Republican* Russell Bowers, in a June 23 interview with the Arizona Capitol Times recapping the 2019 legislative session said the following about

confiscating your firearms: “*From the idea of the unfettered use of firearms to confiscation, who has moved? Well, the confiscation people haven’t moved. We’re just moving more close to them.*” In a more recent interview Speaker Bowers again expressed a willingness to explore more restrictions on your right to keep and bear arms in the 2020 legislative session.

We have a *Republican* governor champing at the bit to get firearms confiscation legislation passed into law, and the *Republican* Speaker of the House eager to help. Twice, we’ve helped defeat the governor’s confiscation scheme due to AzCDL supporters inundating the legislature with thousands of emails. Whether we’re able to do it in again in 2020 depends almost entirely on YOUR participation. Staying quiet and letting the “other guy” do it is surrendering to those who want to disarm you. We make it easy for you to be a Right to Keep and Bear Arms *activist*. As legislation proceeds, we will prepare an email for you to send to your state legislators and the governor. All it takes are a few mouse clicks to make a difference.

Can we count on you?

Your role in Arizona's legislative process

The next Arizona legislative session will officially get underway on Monday, January 13, 2020.

The following is a synopsis of the Arizona legislative process, along with some insight into the legislative rules and procedures that can help or hinder a bill's progress. During this process there are several opportunities for you to make a difference.

It starts with the Constitution.....

Article IV, Part I, Section 1 of the Arizona Constitution states that "the people reserve the power to propose laws..."

Every session, AzCDL brings proposed changes to the law to legislators. If the sponsor is willing, the proposed bill gets officially "introduced" and assigned a number. Finding the right sponsor is important. We've seen great bills go nowhere because they were sponsored by someone the Leadership did not favor.

Once a bill is filed, AzCDL's lobbyists work with legislators in both chambers (House and Senate) getting co-sponsors. The greater the number of co-sponsors, the greater the likelihood the bill will succeed.

Once a bill is introduced and numbered in the originating chamber it goes through a couple of perfunctory "reads" by the full chamber then the Leadership of that chamber assigns it to a committee.

Session deadlines are set for bills to progress. If a bill does not get timely assigned to a committee it dies. Over a thousand bills are filed each session. The majority political party controls the process and the flow of legislation. Guess what would happen to firearms bills if pro-rights legislators were not in the majority?

The committee assignment of a bill can facilitate or impede its progress. When a bill is not assigned to the usual committee, or it is assigned to multiple committees, it can be an indicator of the Leadership's lack of support for the bill.

Bills must pass out of their assigned committees in order to progress. Once assigned to a committee, the committee chair determines if a bill will ever get a hearing.

If you are not engaged in the political process then don't whine when you are politically processed.

Bills not heard in their assigned committees by the session deadline do not advance.

As you can see, much of the progress of a bill to this point is based on the whim of each chamber's Leadership and committee chairs. These are also opportunities where collectively we can help the Leadership "remember" to assign a bill to a committee, or a committee chair to "remember" to schedule a bill for a hearing.

Committee hearings present an opportunity for bills to be amended. Those opposing a bill may try to add weakening amendments that distort or dilute the original intent. Proponents may offer amendments to broaden support for the bill.

Once a bill has survived the committee process, it is scheduled for a Committee of the Whole (COW) hearing, where all the legislators in the chamber can debate the merits of the bill and offer amendments.

This is an important point in the process where we all need to contact our elected Representatives and Senators.

With pro-rights firearms bills, COW hearings usually mean a lot of grandstanding, wailing and hand wringing by anti-rights legislators about the evils of "allowing" ordinary citizens the ability to exercise their Constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms. In short, they prefer disarmed subjects, not armed citizens.

After passing out of the COW, a bill must survive a final formal vote (Third Read) before it can leave the chamber. If a bill makes it this far, it's only half the battle.

Once a bill passes out of the originating chamber (e.g., House), it is sent over to the other chamber (e.g., Senate) where the entire process plays out again, along with more opportunities for you to affect the outcome.

Bills surviving unchanged through both chambers are sent to the Governor. However, if for example, a House bill is amended by the Senate, there is a reconciliation process followed by further votes before the bill can be sent to the Governor.

As we mentioned, pressure from you can help the Leadership "remember" to assign a bill to a committee; for a committee chair to "remember" to schedule a bill for a hearing; for committee members to realize that there is tremendous grassroots support for a bill; and for your legislators and the Governor to understand that you want them to support a bill.

AzCDL lobbyists work at the Capitol to monitor legislation, testify at hearings, promote bills we support and call attention to bills we oppose.

However it is your participation, contacting committee members and legislators, that has the biggest impact on the fate of proposed legislation.

AzCDL believes law-abiding citizens have to right to carry a firearm, openly or discreetly, wherever they have a right to be. That means, regardless of what our anti-rights opponents are going to propose, not only do we want to defeat their bad bills, we want to see more good bills filed and become law that promote our firearms freedoms.

In order to do this, we need your support as an *activist*, not just a member. This coming session, not only are we pushing bills to further restore your right to keep and bear arms, we are again fighting to derail a trend that has happened in several states: "red flag" emergency firearms confiscations using low evidentiary standards with virtually no recourse or appeals, based on biased claims from family members or school officials.

As the legislative session progresses, we will be asking you to use our [Legislative Action Center](#) to send targeted, pre-written emails to legislators and the Governor. All it takes are a few mouse clicks to make a difference.

AzCDL has over 16,000 members. That can make for one very loud voice at the Capitol—but only if everyone reading this commits to getting involved.

Can we count on you?

AzCDL Awarded—Again!

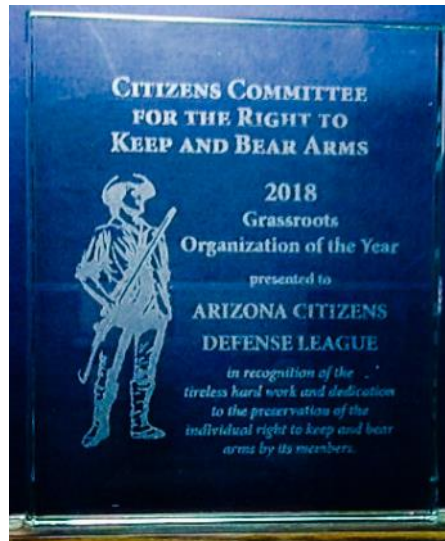


At the 2019 Gun Rights Policy Conference held in Phoenix on September 21-23, Dave Kopp, AzCDL's President, was honored with the "Defender of Liberty" award by the Second Amendment Foundation.

This award is the latest in a series of GRPC awards that AzCDL has received. AzCDL has been recognized as "Grassroots Organization Of The Year"

in 2006 (one year after we formed), in 2010 (after the passage of Constitutional Carry in Arizona) and again in 2018.

Additionally, AzCDL received GRPC's "Grassroots Activist of the Year" awards in 2008 and 2015.



We are very proud of our accomplishments! However, it was your support and activism that resulted in AzCDL being recognized. Thank you!

Make a donation—Get a tax deduction!

In 2017, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) approved the application for the newly minted AzCDL Foundation as a tax exempt "charity" under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

AzCDL spent the last 14 years, with the support of our members, restoring and protecting the right to keep and bear arms in Arizona through legislative lobbying. Thanks to our efforts more Arizonans are exercising their right to bear arms than ever before.

Through our lobbying efforts at the Legislature, we succeeded in restoring the right of law-abiding adults to carry openly or discreetly without seeking government permission in 2010. The CCW permit still exist but is now optional.

Additionally, we were able to achieve significant reforms in the CCW permit process. The result has been a dramatic increase in permit issuance, despite no longer being required. As of October 20, 2019, Arizona issued 347,839 CCW permits.

Because of several other legislative reforms we've initiated or supported there are fewer restrictions on where and when you may carry a firearm.

And, thanks to AzCDL's success at the Legislature, Arizona has earned the reputation for being the friendliest state for gun owners.

If we are going to continue to be successful at the Legislature it is important to show that Arizona has the most responsible gun owners in America. That is the mission of the Foundation.

The AzCDL Foundation has the following goals:

1. Promote firearms safety, training, practice, and skill at arms.
2. Facilitate access to firearms training opportunities.
3. Raise awareness of the constitutional and legal aspects of firearms possession, safety and use.

You can support the AzCDL Foundation through your tax deductible donations

The AzCDL Foundation is a separate, self-funding entity from AzCDL. Your donations will help it achieve its goals.

As a 501(c)(3) charity, donations made to the AzCDL Foundation are tax deductible, in contrast to donations to AzCDL which are not tax deductible.

Donations to the Foundation can be made directly at: <https://azcdfoundation.org>

Shop online? Amazon.com will make donations to the AzCDL Foundation based on your purchases. Simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and designate the AzCDL Foundation as your preferred charity.

Thank you for your support!